

BIRDS FROM CAPE YORK PENINSULA, QUEENSLAND.

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From 1933 to 1939, Mr. Richard Archbold's organisation (Archbold Expeditions), associated with the American Museum of Natural History, New York, made extensive biological collecting surveys in New Guinea. A number of expeditions performed valuable work in little-known areas, even making use of the airplane as a means of travel and transport.

It was not surprising therefore that this organisation sought and obtained permission from the Queensland authorities in 1948 to collect material during six months in Cape York Peninsula. The marked similarity in flora and fauna of this part of Australia and New Guinea has long been known, and the desire to round off the earlier work by collecting in northern Queensland was readily understood.

When the initial arrangements were being made I expressed the wish that a member of the Queensland Museum staff might accompany the party for a time to collect for the State Museum. Agreement on this was quickly reached when Mr. L. J. Brass, leader of the Archbold party, reached Australia. It was decided that Mr. D. P. Vernon, a senior Preparator of this Museum should join the party at Portland Road and remain in the field for two months. Instead, he collected for four months, continuing at the invitation of Mr. Brass until the field work was completed. Vernon commenced collecting at Portland Road on 29th May, 1948, and ceased operations at Mt. Finnegan, near Cooktown, on 27th September, 1948. In the main, he concentrated on birds, but gave some attention to mammals and reptiles, and even to those among the insects and other invertebrates that are readily obtained and suitably preserved in spirit.

He returned with 507 birds (20 spirit preserved), 135 mammals (48 spirit preserved), together with 34 reptiles and a series of invertebrates in spirit; a very fine single effort in the time available. The 507 birds represent 140 species; of these, 134 species (474 specimens) collected in eastern Cape York Peninsula from Portland Road in the north to the Cooktown district in the south are recorded in this paper. Material taken in eastern ports or at sea on the journey north to Portland Road is not included.

The area traversed with route and camps is shown on the map (Fig. 1). No collecting was done on the coast; work was carried out either in areas of tropical rain forest or in the more extensive savanna.

I wish to thank Mr. Brass and the Archbold organisation for the collecting facilities provided for the Queensland Museum.

THE AREA.

Cape York Peninsula is the most northerly portion of the State of Queensland. It is roughly triangular in shape, about 350 miles across at the base, with the apex at Cape York, 500 direct miles to the north. Although isolated from the rest of Queensland, in that there is, as yet, no rail and only indifferent road connections north of Cairns, Cape York Peninsula has for long been sparsely settled by Europeans. The cattle industry is probably the most stable development so far, but the search for economically valuable minerals, especially gold, has always attracted and held a limited population.

There is now a regular monthly service by ship to all ports; a bi-weekly air service from Cairns through Coen and Iron Range to Thursday Island, north-west of Cape York; and an air service from Normanton to the cattle stations on the west coast of the Peninsula.

Church mission stations, with which is associated the majority of the dwindling population of Aborigines, were first established in 1891. There are five on the west and four on the east coast. The combined acreage of these stations is between five and six million acres, individual allotments varying from 4,318 to 1,600,000 acres. The areas provide scope for cattle raising, and vegetables and fruits are generally produced by irrigation.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC AND ZOOGEOGRAPHIC NOTES.

As elsewhere in eastern Australia, the main physiographic feature is the discontinuous range, more or less parallel with the eastern coast and attaining to no great height, known as the Main Divide. Composed mainly of granites and basalts, with some older metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, this range is much closer to the eastern coast in Cape York Peninsula than it is elsewhere, and the relatively long drainage to the west is a notable feature. This western part of the Peninsula, comprising about three-fourths of the area, consists for the most part of Cretaceous sedimentary deposits except for a western coastal fringe of Pleistocene and Recent sediments.

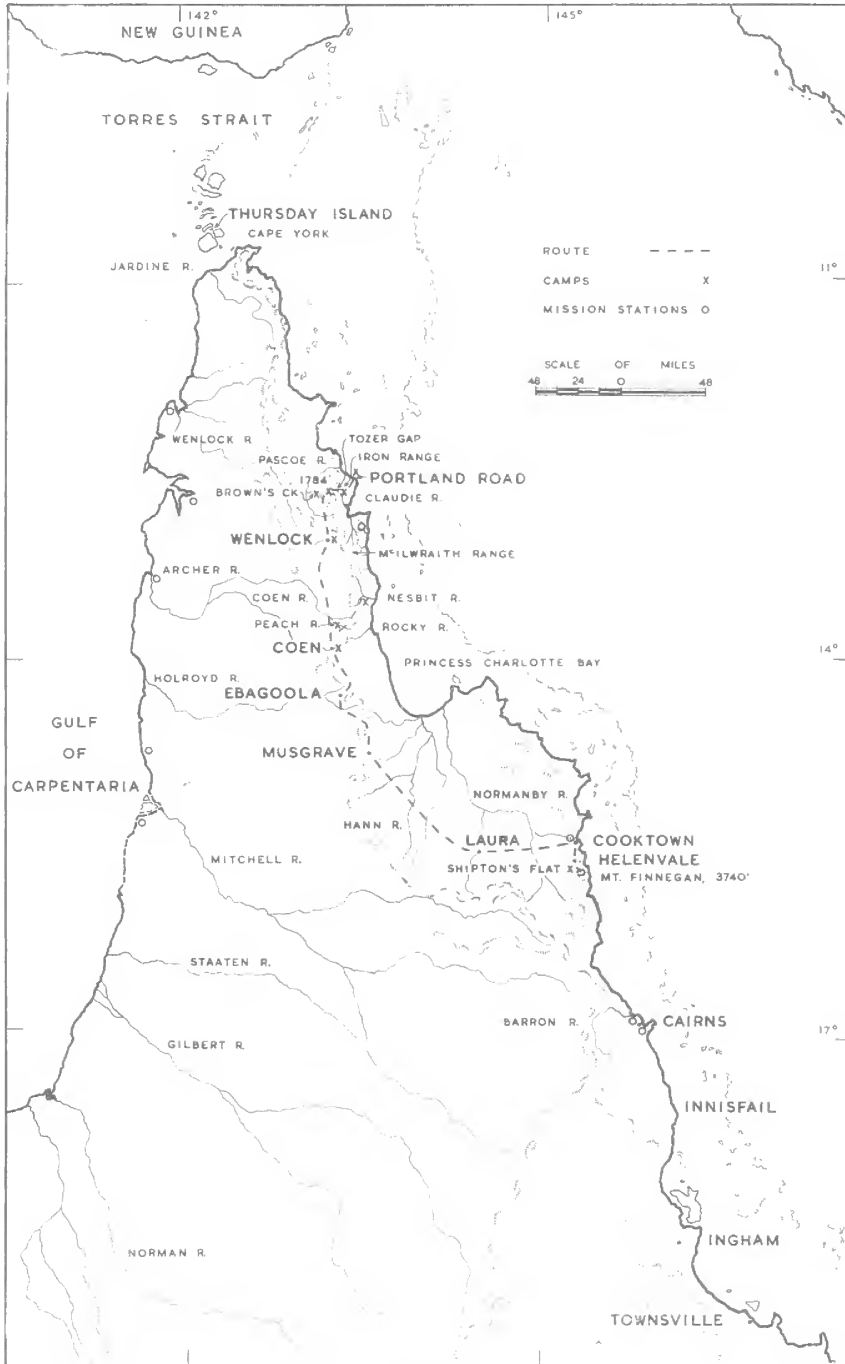


Figure 1.
Cape York Peninsula, North Queensland.



Figure 2.

Face of rain forest at Iron Range, Cape York Peninsula, with wild bananas growing on the banks of a concealed stream. Altitude about 50 feet. Photo. by L. J. Brass, Archbold Cape York Expedition, June 22, 1948.

Although within the tropics and subject to monsoonal weather, by far the greater part is savanna and open forest. Tropical rain forest is limited to comparatively small areas on and east of the Divide, with restricted and poor rain forest associations along some of the rivers which flow to the west. Even on the east coast, there is a marked gap in the rain forest between the vicinity of Cooktown and that of Coen to the north, a distance of about 175 miles. This is clearly reflected in the distribution of the fauna, the progress of which in my view, has always been from north to south, and never in the reverse direction. A considerable number of species of birds and other animals are restricted to the rain forest north-east of Coen. Of the 134 species here recorded, 14 are confined in Australia to this area.



Figure 3.

Expedition party in open forest of box and ironbark trees on the Iron Range—Wenlock Road, Sir William Thompson Range (about 600 feet). Photo. by G. H. H. Tate, Archbold Cape York Expedition, July 24, 1948

Zoogeographically, Cape York Peninsula is part of the Torresian sub-region which embraces the northern coastal areas extending from north-western Australia to the east coast, and south to the vicinity of Sydney. The narrow eastern portion of the Peninsula, from the Main Divide to the coastal islands is part of the more northerly of two readily defined eastern provinces of this sub-region. The division between these two provinces is in the vicinity of Rockhampton, mid-east Queensland. The western portion of the Peninsula, from about the Jardine River south to the base of the Gulf of Carpentaria, constitutes another province. Some elements of the Eremian sub-region, which embraces the dry to arid interior, also are present in the savanna of the centre and west. The number of species is small, but these birds constitute a notable group.

SOME PREVIOUS FIELD WORK.

It would appear that John MacGillivray, Naturalist aboard H. M. Survey Ship Rattlesnake, made the first recorded collection of birds from northern Cape York Peninsula. The material was obtained while surveying was in progress in the vicinity of Cape York. John Gould determined the birds and described some as new species, while MacGillivray (1852) published a complete list in his account of the voyage.

More than forty years later H. G. Barnard, a well-known Queensland field worker, collected in the vicinity of the Jardine brothers cattle property at Somerset, Cape York. Some of the material was recorded by Le Souef (1898) and the new form, *Talegallus purpureicollis*, was described.

Robinson and Laverock (1900) recorded a good series of specimens mainly from the Cooktown district, with some obtained near Cairns to the south. E. Olive was the collector, and some of his field notes were given in the published results. As far as I am aware, this was the first substantial record of birds from the Cooktown area.

In 1910, Barnard again was at Cape York collecting on behalf of H. L. White. In his field notes, Barnard (1911) added 14 species to the list of birds from northern Cape York Peninsula. About the same time, W. B. MacGillivray, a medical man of Broken Hill, New South Wales, was sailing in the northern waters of the Great Barrier Reef, landing on many of the islands and finally on the mainland at Claudie River. An account of this trip and a list of species observed were published by MacGillivray (1910). This was the first of a number of field trips, chiefly to the Claudie River area, carried out either in association with William McLennan as collector, or by the latter alone on behalf of MacGillivray (1914, 1917, 1918).

It was during this field work that McLennan collected for the first time in Australia the Red-cheeked Parrot (*Geoffroyus geoffroyi maclennani*), and the Red-sided Parrot (*Lorius loratus macgillivrayi*). McLennan was an excellent field-man and collector, who lived for many years in the Peninsula, and he was without peer as a maker of cabinet skins. It was always a pleasure to handle the material, now in the National Museum, Melbourne, which he collected in various localities in northern Australia for H. L. White.

His last work for H. L. White was carried out in the neighbourhood of Coen over a period of nine months in 1921-22. An excellent collection was obtained and recorded by White (1922), including the Golden-shouldered Parrot, *Psephotus chrysopterygius*, which is rare in collections.

The only list recorded between 1922 and the present was published by Thomson (1935).

All papers cited deal with birds observed or collected mainly in the area between Cooktown and Cape York, where the present material was obtained.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIMENS.

The letters (R. F.) associated with locality names indicate that the specimens were collected in or near rain forest. Owing to the restricted and broken nature of the rain forest, in some areas it is possible to pass from this type of country into savanna in a distance of a few yards. This results in some locality names covering both rain forest and savanna. Rain forest species recorded from Brown's Creek, Deep Creek and the Archer River, were collected in remnant patches of poor rain forest in the courses of these streams. At Shipton's Flat, near Cooktown, the only rain forest consists of similar remnants towards the base of Mt. Finnegan.

In discussing the distribution of some forms, reference is made to the " Cairns-Cardwell area." When collections are obtained in eastern Queensland between Cardwell and Rockhampton, a considerable number of rain forest species will doubtless be collected at least as far south as Townsville, and in some instances, south to Rockhampton. For the present, I am citing only the known distribution based on material already collected.

The sequence of species is, in the main, according to Wetmore (1951).

CASUARIUS CASUARIUS JOHNSONII Mueller. CASSOWARY.

Casuarium johnsonii F. Mueller, Australian, Dec. 15, 1866 (Gourie Creek, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one male.

The Cassowary is one of a number of species which are confined to the rain forest of Cape York Peninsula. Species in this category, especially those restricted to the country north of Coen, are sometimes loosely referred to as "New Guinea birds," and while it is highly probable that they were among the latest to enter Australia from New Guinea as the centre of radiation, the expression is none the less invalid. In general, distributional progress must be considered in terms of geological time. On land, this progress may for a time be impeded by barriers which arise, or assisted by the disappearance of barriers. For example, it is unlikely that the present extensive break in the rain forest between Coen and Cooktown existed when the Cassowary gradually made its way south to the rain forest in the Cairns-Cardwell area.

The species is now difficult to collect. Domestic pigs, liberated many years ago, and now living in great numbers in the wild state, would appear to be one of the main causes of the reduction in population. These mammals cause much destruction of ground habitat, and doubtless destroy the eggs and possibly the immature of this ground-dwelling and ground-nesting bird.

PHALACROCORAX SULCIROSTRIS (Brandt). LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT.

Carbo sulcirostris Brandt, Bull. Sci. Imp. Acad. Sci. St. Pétersb., 3, 1837, col. 56 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Coen River, one male.

A wide-spread, but not an abundant species. There is no difference in material examined from widely separated localities.

PHALACROCORAX MELANOLEUCOS MELANOLEUCOS (Vieillot). LITTLE PIED CORMORANT.

Hydrocorax melanoleucos Vieillot, Nouv. Diet. Hist. Nat., 8, 1817, p. 88 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Coen River, one male.

More numerous than *P. sulcirostris*, and equally widely distributed.

NOTOPHOYX NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE (Latham). WHITE-FACED HERON.

Ardea novae Hollandiae Latham, Ind. Orn., 2, 1790, p. 701 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male.

The White-faced Heron is another widely distributed species. Specimens occur singly except when breeding.

CARPHIBIS SPINICOLLIS (Jameson). STRAW-NECKED IBIS.

Ibis spinicollis Jameson, Edinb. New Philos. Journ., 19, 1835, p. 213 (Murray River, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male; Archer River, one female.

The Straw-necked Ibis usually moves about in flocks, large and small. Its habit of feeding upon insect pests of pastures has gained it many friends. However, the habit is not peculiar to this Ibis, but the birds are large and readily noticed and tend to receive most of the credit.

ACCIPITER NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE (Gmelin). WHITE (GREY) GOSHAWK.

Falco novae-hollandiae Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 264 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one female; Iron Range, one female.

It was in Cape York Peninsula that H. G. Barnard proved that the white and grey goshawks are colour phases of the same species. Barnard collected a grey male and white female at one nest, and a grey female and white male at another.

It has yet to be satisfactorily shown that more than one subspecies of this goshawk occurs in Australia.

ACCIPITER FASCIATUS FASCIATUS (Vigors & Horsfield). BROWN GOSHAWK.

Astur Fasciatus Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 181 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male, one female; Iron Range, one male.

Owing to the marked change which takes place in the colour and pattern of the plumage of this goshawk, and the restricted nature of collections, subspecific differentiation must remain doubtful.

HALIASTUR SPHENURUS SPHENURUS (Vieillot). WHISTLING EAGLE.

Milvus sphenurus Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., 20, 1818, p. 364 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Peach River, one male ; Wenlock, two females.

For the present, it is well to refer Australian representatives to one subspecies.

MILVUS MIGRANS AFFINIS Gould. FORK-TAILED KITE.

Milvus affinis Gould, Syn. Bds. Austr., pt. 3, 1838, pl. (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Coen River, one male ; Iron Range, one female.

Primarily a species of the inland of Australia, the Fork-tailed Kite on occasions of severe and lengthy droughts in the inland and north, is one of the few species which moves towards coastal areas. This movement recently took place in 1951 when flocks of up to 500 of these Kites were present in eastern Queensland and elsewhere.

IERACIDEA BERIGORA BERIGORA (Vigors & Horsfield). BROWN HAWK.

Falco Berigora Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 184 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Pascoe River, one male ; Wenlock, one male, one female.

Wing measurements of the three specimens are as follows:—female 350, male 310, male 298. Condon (1951) dealt with this difficult species, with the exception of Queensland birds. It may be that the present specimens should be referred to *centralia*.

FALCO CENCHROIDES CENCHROIDES Vigors & Horsfield. KESTREL.

Falco Cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 183 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Coen, one female.

Despite considerable variation in colouration, it has not been possible to recognise more than one subspecies for Australia.

MEGAPODIUS FREYCINET ASSIMILIS Masters. SCRUB FOWL.

? *Megapodius assimilis* Masters, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 1, 1876, p. 59 (Dungeness Island and Bet Island, Torres Strait).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), three males, one female, one (?); Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male, one (?).

There would appear to be two races of this mound-builder in Australia, one in Arnhem Land (*M. f. t mulus*), and the other in Cape York Peninsula ranging south on the east coast to Rockhampton. The correct name for the latter form is doubtful.

M. reinwardt yorki was described by Mathews (1929) with Cedar Bay, Cooktown, as the type locality. More recently *M.f. castanotus* was provided (Mayr, 1938) for the birds from the Cairns district, when it was remarked that Mathew's Cooktown material agreed with northern Peninsula specimens, but was distinct from the Cairns district birds. This is unusual. The rain forest is continuous from Cairns to Cooktown, but between Cooktown and about the latitude of Coen to the north, the country is mainly savanna and open forest. Where two races of a species occur on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula, usually there is a break in the range between Cooktown and Coen, but not between Cooktown and Cairns.

There is no difference in the seven specimens recorded here from Iron Range in the north and Mt. Finnegan near Cooktown in the south. In the circumstances, I prefer to use Master's name until more material is available.

ALECTURA LATHAMI PURPUREICOLLIS (Le Souef). BRUSH TURKEY.

Talegallus purpureicollis Le Souef, Ibis, 1898, p. 51 (Cape York Peninsula, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), two males; Brown's Creek (R.F.), one male; Deep Creek (R.F.), one male.

A feature of this subspecies is the red colour of the wattles on the lower part of the neck. These wattles are yellow in *A. l. lathami*.

LOBIBYX MILES (Boddaert). MASKED PLOVER.

Tringa miles Boddaert, Table Pl. enlum., 1783, p. 51 (Timor Laut).

MATERIAL.—Musgrave Station, one male, one female.

Similar in habits to the well-known Spur-winged Plover (*L. novae-hollandiae*) which occurs to the south, the Masked Plover readily takes wing making its strident call on the approach of human beings. It does not range south of Rockhampton on the east coast although recorded in the Checklist (1926) as occurring south to Brisbane.

MEGALOPREPPIA MAGNIFICA ASSIMILIS (Gould). WOMPOO PIGEON.

Carpophaga assimilis Gould, Jardine's Contr. Orn., 1850, p. 106 (Cape York, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one female; Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one female, one (?).

There is a marked difference in size between this smaller form of the Peninsula and the larger *M. m. magnifica* to the south.

MACROPYGGIA PHASIANELLA ROBINSONI Mathews. BROWN PIGEON.

Macropygia phasianella robinsoni Mathews, Nov. Zool. 18, 1912, p. 185 (Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), two males, one female, one (?); Tozer Gap (R.F.), two males.

Assuming that the type is a male, Mathews statement that this form " Differs from *M. p. phasianella* in its much smaller size and its paler colouration especially on the head," is correct. He gave the type locality as the " Northern Territory," and later, apparently without explanation, he altered this to " Alexandra, Northern Territory."

The Brown Pigeon is a bird of the rain forest, and I doubt if it occurs in any part of the Northern Territory, least of all in the arid country of Alexandra Station south of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

The birds from the rain forest of Cape York Peninsula are smaller and lighter in colouration than a series of *M. p. phasianella* from south-east Queensland.

GEOPELIA STRIATA TRANQUILLA Gould. PEACEFUL DOVE.

Geopelia tranquilla Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1844, p. 56 (Liverpool Plains, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Coen, one male.

Although only one example of this well-known form was taken, it is obviously to be referred to the larger *G. s. tranquilla* of the eastern coastal areas. Peters (1937) included Cape York Peninsula within the range of the smaller *G. s. placida* of the north and north-west.

GEOPELIA CUNEATA CUNEATA (Latham). DIAMOND DOVE.

Columba cuneata Latham, Index Orn., Suppl., 1801, p. lxi (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male, one female.

This is another widely distributed species. The two specimens collected do not differ from material obtained much farther south on the east coast.

GEOPELIA HUMERALIS HUMERALIS (Temminck). BAR-SHOULDERED DOVE.

Columba humeralis Temminck, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 13, pt. 1, 1821, p. 128 (Broad Sound, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, two males ; Tozer Gap, one male, one female ; Brown's Creek, one male ; Shipton's Flat, one male, one female.

A tropical and subtropical form of the coastal areas, the Bar-shouldered Dove is not uncommon in Cape York Peninsula.

CHALCOPHAPS INDICA CHRYSOCHLORA (Wagler). GREEN-WINGED PIGEON.

Columba chrysochloa Wagler, Syst. Av., 1827, Columba, sp. 79 (Gosford, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one male, one female ; Archer River (R.F.), one male ; Shipton's Flat (R.F.), one male.

A rain forest species ; generally disturbed while on the ground.

TRICHOGLOSSUS HAEMATOD SEPTRENTRIONALIS Robinson. RAINBOW LORIKEET.

Trichoglossus novachollandiae subsp. *septentrionalis* Robinson, Bull. Liverpool Mus., 2, 1900, p. 115 (Cooktown, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, two males; Iron Range, one male, one female; Brown's Creek, two males, one female; Wenlock, one male; Peach River, one male.

Compared with *moluccanus*, this subspecies is smaller in size and brighter in colouration. The head especially is a deeper blue and is not tinged grey as in *moluccanus*.

The range is north-eastern Queensland, south to Rockhampton.

PSITTEUTELES VERSICOLOR VERSICOLOR (Lear). VARIED LORIKEET.

Trichoglossus versicolor Lear, Illustr. Psittac., pt. 7, 1831 (Cape York, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Hann River, two males, one female, one (?).

Both the Varied and the Rainbow Lorikeet are nomadic but not migratory in habit. The flowering of the Australian eucalypts is an erratic process, and the movements of these nectar-feeding parrots follow the same pattern.

These four Peninsula specimens are markedly darker than a large series of specimens from the Northern Territory. Mathews' *mellori* (1912) from the Northern Territory was described as differing from Cape York Peninsula specimens in being darker, especially on the head, cheeks and breast. In the series available, the direct opposite of Mathews' statement is found to be the case.

PROBOSCIGER ATERRIMUS ATERRIMUS (Gmelin). PALM COCKATOO.

Psittacus aterrimus Gmelin, Syst. Nat., 1, pt. 1, 1788, p. 330 (Northern Australia).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), three females; Tozer's Gap (R.F.), one male, one female; Brown's Creek (R.F.), one female.

This is one of a number of species which are confined to the rain forest, north-east of Coen in Australia.

CALYPTORHYNCHUS MAGNIFICUS MAGNIFICUS (Shaw). RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO.

Psittacus magnificus Shaw, Nat. Misc., 2, 1790, pl. 50 and text (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, one male, two females.

The distribution of this species in eastern Australia is unusual, and it is apparent that Peters (1937) found difficulty in outlining the ranges of the subspecies.

The species is present in Cape York Peninsula, south to Cardwell. Apparently it does not occur in coastal areas immediately to the south of Cardwell, and it is not present in south-east Queensland, where both *C. funereus* and *C. lathamii* have been collected near to the coast. With the exception of western Victoria, it would appear to be absent from south-eastern Australia, and it is not present in the islands of Bass Strait or Tasmania where *C. funereus* occurs.

C. lathamii is the main species of inland south-eastern Australia, overlapping *C. magnificus* in the south and extending to Kangaroo Island. In the north, it is fairly numerous on the coastal range of south-eastern Queensland, and has been taken with *C. funereus* near to the coast in this area. The northern and southern extensions of range in this species are exceptional.

C. baudinii alone is present in extreme south-western Australia, but elsewhere in that State in suitable localities, and in the Northern Territory and Central Australia, *C. magnificus* alone occurs.

KAKATOE GALERITA subspecies. WHITE COCKATOO.

Psittacus galeritus Latham, Ind. Orn., 1, 1790, p. 109 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male; Iron Range, one male.

Although fairly common and widely distributed, it is unlikely that there is sufficient material of the species in any collection to permit differentiation of subspecies in Australia.

KAKATOE ROSEICAPILLA (Vieillot). GALAH.

Cacatua roseicapilla Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. Hist. Nat., 17, 1817, p. 12 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one female.

This is one of the forms that is more commonly found in the arid inland. The specimen was taken in the open country beside rain forest in the Iron Range district.

LORIUS RORATUS MACGILLIVRAYI (Mathews). RED-SIDED PARROT.

Eclactus pectoralis macgillivrayi Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec., 2, 1913, p. 75 (Pascoc River, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—North Claudie River (R.F.), one male; Iron Range (R.F.), one male.

The Red-sided and Red-cheeked Parrots were first collected in Australia by McLennan. Both are confined to the rain forest north-east of Coen.

GEOFFROYUS GEOFFROYI MACLENNANI (Macgillivray). RED-CHEEKED PARROT.

Pseudopsittacus maclennani MacGillivray, Emu, 13, 1913, p. 105 (Pascoc River, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one male, one female; Peach River (R.F.), one imm. male.

The Peach River specimen is immature and lacks the red cheeks, lores, and forehead, and the blue head and nape of the adult male. The head and nape are dull reddish-brown, faintly tinged blue, and the forehead, lores and cheeks are olive-green except for a spot of red in front of each eye.

APROSMICTUS ERYTHROPTERUS COCCINEOPTERUS (Gould). RED-WINGED PARROT.

Ptistes coccineopterus Gould, Handb. Bds. Austr., 2, 1865, p. 39 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Archer River, one male; Coen River, two males, one female.

These specimens from the Peninsula and a few from the Northern Territory are slightly paler in colouration than others from more southern localities, but a larger series is required. There would appear to be no difference in size; the four Cape York Peninsula specimens vary from 190 to 195 mm. in wing length. Meantime, Gould's *coccineopterus* is retained.

ALISTERUS SCAPULARIS MINOR Mathews. KING PARROT.

Alisterus cyanopygius minor Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1911, p. 23 (Cairns, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (2,600 feet), one female.

The material available, including the single specimen from Mt. Finnegan, support the recognition of *minor* as a northern subspecies of smaller size.

PLATYCERCUS ADSCITUS ADSCITUS (Latham). PALE-HEADED ROSELLA.

Psittacus adscitus Latham, Ind. Orn., 1, 1790, p. 126 (Cooktown, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, two males, one (?).

There are two subspecies of the Pale-headed Rosella; *P. a. adscitus* ranges from Cape York south to the vicinity of Rockhampton, and *P. a. palliceps* is present in south-eastern Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Specimens of *palliceps* are larger, the cheeks are white or almost white, and generally a greater portion of the fore-part of the body is yellow. *P. a. adscitus* is smaller, the cheeks are almost entirely blue, and less of the fore-part of the body is yellow.

CACOMANTIS PYRROPHANUS PRIONURUS (Lichtenstein). FAN-TAILED CUCKOO.

Cuculus prionurus "Ill." Lichtenstein, Verz. Doubl. Zool. Mus. Berlin, 1823, p. 9 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek, one female; Archer River, one female.

Both specimens are birds of the year. They were collected in July, 1948. The breeding range is eastern and southern Australia.

CHALCITES MALAYANUS RUSSATUS (Gould). RUFOUS-BREASTED BRONZE CUCKOO.

Chrysococcyx russata Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1868, p. 76 (Cape York district, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Archer River, one male.

This form is readily distinguished from *C. m. minutillus* of north-western Australia and the Northern Territory. In the latter, the upper surface and the barring of the under surface are green; in *russatus* these parts are russet or even rufous in colour.

CENTROPUS PHASIANINUS PHASIANINUS (Latham). PHEASANT COUCAL.

Cuculus phasianinus Latham, Index. Orn., Suppl., 1801, p. xxx (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Coen, one male; Shipton's Flat, one male.

The Pheasant Coucal is not uncommon in the open and cleared country of eastern Queensland.

NINOX NOVAESEELANDIAE OCELLATA (Bonaparte). BOOBOOK OWL.

Athene ocellata Bonaparte, Cons. Av., 1, 1850, p. 42 (Raffles Bay, Coburg Peninsula, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one female; Brown's Creek, one male; Archer River, one male; Coen River, one (?); Hann River, one female.

This is the small light-coloured form of the northern coastal areas, collected in open savanna. The darkest form of all (*N. n. lurida*) occurs in the rain forest in the vicinity of Cairns and Cardwell.

PODARGUS STRIGOIDES MARMORATUS Gould. FROGMOUTH.

Podargus marmoratus Gould, Bds. Austr., Suppl., pt. 2, 1855, pl. 8 (Cape York Peninsula).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, two males; Brown's Creek, one (?); Archer River, one male; Coen, one male, two females.

To decide upon the number of species of the genus *Podargus* in Australia always has been difficult. Wide variation in colour and in size gave rise in the early years to the description of many new species. Some have been readily consigned to synonymy, but there has been a not unreasonable tendency to retain as species the three forms described by John Gould (*P. phalaenoides*, *P. plumiferus*, and *P. marmoratus*), in addition to *P. strigoides* and *P. papuanus*.

For some time now it has been generally agreed that *phalaenoides* is a small sized subspecies of *strigoides* from north-western Australia and Arnhem Land. I have already indicated (Peters, 1940) that *P. plumiferus* is based on nothing more than a colour variation of *strigoides*. After a close examination of the seven specimens collected by Vernon in northern Cape York Peninsula, together with other material in the collections of this Museum, I have no doubt that *P. marmoratus* Gould also is a subspecies of *strigoides*. *P. s. marmoratus* is small in size and in this respect is close to *P. s. phalaenoides*. This no doubt explains why a number of observers have recorded *phalaenoides* from Cape York Peninsula.

PODARGUS PAPUENSIS Quoy & Gaimard. PAPUAN FROGMOUTH.

Podargus papuensis Quoy and Gaimard, Voy. "Astrolabe," Zool., 1, 1830, p. 207; Atlas, Ois., pl. 13 (Manokwari Harbour, New Guinea).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male; Brown's Creek, one male.

This frogmouth is almost twice the size of *P. s. marmoratus*. It is confined to the country north of Coen.

EUROSTOPODUS GUTTATUS GUTTATUS (Vigors & Horsfield). SPOTTED NIGHTJAR.

Caprimulgus guttatus Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, pt. 1, 1826, p. 192 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one female.

The collecting of nightjars is greatly a matter of chance, and as a result, collections are not representative. From the material which I have seen over a number of years, it would seem that *guttatus* is a form of the dry to arid interior of Australia, ranging from west of the eastern coastal range to the mid-west coast. It is one of the few inland forms which occur in Cape York Peninsula.

On the other hand, *Eurostopodus albo-gularis* is a coastal form, ranging in eastern Australia from the Cairns-Cardwell area south and west to South Australia.

It should be noted that Mathews has designated Parramatta, New South Wales as the type locality of *guttatus*.

CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS YORKI Mathews. LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR.

Caprimulgus macrurus yorki Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1912, p. 291 (Cape York, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one (?); Iron Range, three males; Tozer Gap, one male.

The broadly white-tipped outer tail feathers are a notable field character of this species.

COLLOCALIA SPODIOPYGIA TERRAE-REGINAE (Ramsay). GREY SWIFTLET.

Cypselus terrae-reginae Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1874 (1875), p. 601 (near Cardwell, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one male; Brown's Creek, one (?); Shipton's Flat, one male.

I have followed Mayr (1937) in his arrangement of this difficult group.

CEYX AZUREUS PULCHER (Gould). AZURE KINGFISHER.

Alcyone pulchra Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, pt. 14, 1846, p. 19 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek, one male.

Although only one specimen was obtained, I have no doubt that it is an example of the form described by Gould from Port Essington. Mathews *mixta* is a synonym of *pulcher*.

HALCYON TOROTORO FLAVIROSTRIS Gould. YELLOW-BILLED KINGFISHER.

Halcyon (Syma ?) flavirostris Gould, Jardine's Contr. Orn., 1850, p. 105 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—North Claudie River, one male.

H. t. flavirostris is one of the forms confined to the Peninsula, north-east of Coen.

DACELO NOVAEGUINEAE MINOR Robinson. KOOKABURRA.

Dacelo gigas minor Robinson, Bull. Liverpool Mus., 2, 1900, p. 116 (Cooktown, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male.

This is the smaller sized form named by Robinson from Cape York Peninsula.

That the name *novaeguineae* 1783 has priority over *gigas* 1783 was first brought to notice by Stressemann (1920). As this kingfisher does not occur in New Guinea, it should be possible to have the name suppressed in favour of *gigas*.

DACELO LEACHI CERVINA Gould. BLUE-WINGED KOOKABURRA.

Dacelo cervina Gould Bds. Austr. and adj. Ids., pt. 2, 1838, pl. 2 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Coen River, one female.

The single specimen is clearly to be referred to *cervina*.

HALCYON MACLEAYI MACLEAYI Jardine & Selby. FOREST KINGFISHER.

Halcyon Macleayi Jardine and Selby, Illustr. Orn., 2 (1903), pl. 101 and text (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male; Tozer Gap, one male, one female; Shipton's Flat, one male, one female.

There is a fairly general northward movement of this species after breeding. It is unlikely that more than one subspecies is present, at least in the east.

HALCYON SANCTA SANCTA Vigors & Horsfield. SACRED KINGFISHER.

Halcyon sanctus Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, pt. 1, 1827, p. 206 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male, one female; Brown's Creek, one male.

The Sacred Kingfisher also moves northward after breeding. Only one subspecies appears to be present in eastern Australia.

MEROPS ORNATUS Latham. RAINBOW-BIRD.

Merops ornatus Latham, Index Orn., Suppl., 1801, p. xxxv (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, two males, one (?); Iron Range, one male, one female.

The northward movement in the preceding two Kingfishers and in *M. ornatus* is never complete. Individuals are present throughout the winter months in areas south of Cape York Peninsula.

PITTA VERSICOLOR SIMILLIMA Gould. NOISY PITTA.

Pitta simillima Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1868, p. 76 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one female; Rossville Creek (R.F.), one male; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

P. v. simillima is decidedly smaller in all dimensions compared with the only other Australian subspecies, *P. v. versicolor*, which ranges south from Rockhampton to north-eastern New South Wales.

CORACINA NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE MELANOPS (Latham). BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE.

Corvus melanops Latham, Index. Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 24 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, two males, one female.

This species also moves north after breeding, but again the movement is not complete. Unless the individual birds return to the same breeding areas after each partial migration, it is difficult to see how subspecific differences can be developed and maintained.

The three specimens from Iron Range do not differ from others obtained at Gympie, south-east Queensland and Roper River, Northern Territory.

CORACINA PAPUENSIS STALKERI Mathews. WHITE-BREASTED CUCKOO-SHRIKE.

Coracina hypoleuca stalkeri Mathews, Nov. Zool. 18, 1912, p. 327 (Cooktown, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male, one (?); Brown's Creek, one male; Peach River, one female; Shipton's Flat, one male, one female.

The grey colour of the breast in mature specimens does appear to be characteristic of this subspecies.

EDOLISOMA TENUIROSTRE TENUIROSTRE (Jardine). JARDINE CATERPILLAR EATER.

Graucalus tenuirostris Jardine, Edinburgh Journ. Nat. Geog., 3, 1831, p. 211 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Peach River, one male.

This is an uncommon form in eastern Australia.

LALAGE SUEURII TRICOLOR (Swainson). WHITE-WINGED TRILLER.

Ceblepyris tricolor Swainson, Zool. Journ., 1, 1825, p. 467 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one female; Brown's Creek, one female.

This species too moves northward after the breeding season and apparently some specimens reach south-eastern New Guinea.

LALAGE LEUCOMELA LEUCOMELA (Vigors & Horsfield). VARIED TRILLER.

Campephaga leucomela Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 215 (Broad Sd., mid-east Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland road, one male, one (?); North Claudie River, two males, one female; Archer River, one male; Peach River, one (?).

A more common form in Cape York Peninsula than *L. s. tricolor*.

DICRURUS BRACTEATUS BRACTEATUS Gould. SPANGLED DRONGO.

Dicrurus bracteatus Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1842, p. 132, 1843 (Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek (R.F.), one female.

This is another form which moves northward in the winter months and returns southward again in the spring. The movement is not complete.

ORIOLUS SAGITTATUS SAGITTATUS (Latham). OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE.

Coracias sagittata Latham, Index Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 26 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, two males; Shipton's Flat, one male; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan, one male.

Two subspecies of this oriole occur in Australia; *sagittatus* in the east and south-east, and *affinis* in the north-west and Northern Territory.

ORIOLUS FLAVOCINCTUS KINGI Mathews. YELLOW ORIOLE.

Oriolus flavocinctus kingi Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1912, p. 435 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male; North Claudie River, one male; Archer River, one male; Peach River, one male, one (?); Shipton's Flat, two males.

Again, two subspecies are present in Australia; *flavocinctus* in the north-west and Northern Territory and *kingi* in Cape York Peninsula, south to the Cairns-Cardwell area.

CORVUS CORONOIDES subspecies. CROW.

Corvus coronoides Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 261 (Parramatta, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek, one female; Wenlock, one male.

I have long held the view that there are only two species of *Corvus* in Australia ; *C. bennetti* in the interior and *C. coronoides* and subspecies throughout Australia. The body feathers of specimens of the latter species from the south-east, south, and probably the south-west have dark grey bases. This colour gradually changes through lighter grey to white in specimens from the centre and north. This character combined with size will doubtless provide means for subspecific differentiation when collections become sufficiently comprehensive.

The bases of body feathers in the two examples recorded are white, and in all respects these birds agree with others available from the Roper River, Northern Territory and Cooper's Creek, western Queensland.

STREPERA GRACULINA MAGNIROSTRIS White. PIED CURRAWONG.

Strepera graculina magnirostris White, Emu, 22, 1923, p. 258 (Coen, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male.

This is the large-sized subspecies described by White from Coen. The bill especially is notable ; the culmen in the present specimen measures 70 mm.

CRACTICUS QUOYI SPALDINGI Ramsay. BLACK BUTCHER-BIRD.

Cracticus spaldingi Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W., 2, 1878, p. 211 (Darwin, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Archer River (R.F.), one female ; Upper Nesbit River (R.F.), one female ; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one female.

Three Australian forms of this species, based on size, have been accepted. However, size would seem to be a variable factor.

The three examples recorded are black. The first two are similar in all respects to black birds from the Cairns-Cardwell area, while the Mt. Finnegan specimen is smaller and agrees in dimensions with the brown birds from the Cairns-Cardwell area. Although no material from the northern Territory is at present available for comparison, it is unlikely that there is more than one subspecies in Australia.

CRACTICUS MENTALIS KEMPI Mathews. BLACK-BACKED BUTCHER-BIRD.

Cracticus mentalis kemp Mathews, Aust. Av. Rec., 1, 1912, p. 95 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one female.

This species is confined to the country north of Coen in Australia. Specimens from this area are distinctly smaller than New Guinea examples.

GRALLINA CYANOLEUCA (Latham). MAGPIE-LARK.

Corvus cyanoleucus Latham, Index Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 25 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one (?); Wenlock, one male.

A wide-spread and well-known form. Sufficient material is not available to permit consideration of subspecies. In collections examined to date, no subspecific difference has been noted.

AILUROEDUS MELANOTIS MACULOSUS Ramsay. SPOTTED CATBIRD.

Aeluroedus maculosus Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1874, p. 601, 1875 (Rockingham Bay, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one female ; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), one male ; Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), four males, two (?).

There would appear to be one subspecies of the Spotted Catbird in Australia. It ranges, in rain forest only, from Cape York south to the Cairns-Cardwell area. Mathews' *A. m. fairfaxi* has no standing, nor has *A. m. joanae* which he described as recently as 1941 (Mathews, 1941). The latter is based on a single specimen in the Queensland Museum collected by Neuhäuser in the Rocky Scrub district. This locality to Mathews became "Cape York" which is over 200 miles distant from the Rocky Scrub. The type and only specimen is slightly smaller than average, and the same can be said of occasional examples from other localities.

Although *A. crassirostris* (Paykull) and *A. melanotis* (Gray) in my view are clearly separate species, Mayr (1941) has listed them as one species.

SCENOPOEETES DENTIROSTRIS Ramsay. TOOTH-BILLED BOWER-BIRD.

Scenopoeus dentirostris Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1875, p. 591, 1876 (vicinity Bellenden-Ker Range, North-east Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

This specimen from Mt. Finnegan, near Cooktown, extends the range of the species northward from the Cairns-Cardwell area.

CHLAMYDERA CERVINIVENTRIS Gould. FAWN-BREASTED BOWER-BIRD.

Chlamydera cerviniventris Gould, Jardine's Contr. Orn., 1850, p. 106 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, one male.

Chlamydera cerviniventris is a rare form in collections. Apparently it has not been recorded south of the Claudie River district in Australia.

CHLAMYDERA NUCHALIS ORIENTALIS Gould. GREAT BOWER-BIRD.

Chlamydera orientalis Gould, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 4, 1879, p. 74 (North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male ; Shipton's Flat, one male.

The species was described from a single specimen which lacked a locality and other particulars. Later, Gould recorded specimens of both sexes from north-western Australia. Later still, the same author described a new species, *C. orientalis*, from the vicinity of Port Denison, north-east Queensland, when he particularly remarked upon the difficulty of recording the differences between it and *nuchalis*. These differences are accepted to-day as of subspecific value.

Mathews has stated that he compared specimens with the illustration of *nuchalis* provided by Jardine and Selby and concluded that the bird described by these authors must have come from north Queensland. If correct, this would make *orientalis* a synonym of *nuchalis*. The original description by Jardine and Selby is not available to me.

However, birds of the species from Cape York Peninsula do differ subspecifically from specimens obtained in north-western Australia and the Northern Territory, and for the present, I prefer to accept Gould's decision on the matter.

CRASPEDOPHORA MAGNIFICA CLAUDIA Mathews. MAGNIFICENT RIFLE-BIRD.

Craspedophora magnifica claudia Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec., 3, 1917, p. 72 (Claudie River, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap (R.F.), one female; Upper Nesbit River (R.F.), two males; Peach River (R.F.), one female.

The birds from the Rocky Scrub of the Upper Nesbit River and Peach River, 16 miles north-east of Coen, extend the range of this form south from the Claudie River district. This is probably the southern limit of distribution. It has already been noted that to the south, beyond Coen, there is a break in the rain forest of more than one hundred miles to the vicinity of Cooktown; here *P. victoriae* occurs.

PTILORIS VICTORIAE Gould. VICTORIA RIFLE-BIRD.

Ptiloris victoriae Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1849, p. 111, 1850 (Barnard Isles, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one female.

This record of *P. victoriae* from Mt. Finnegan, about 30 miles south of Cooktown extends the range of the species northwards from the Cairns-Cardwell area. This is likely to prove the northern limit of distribution.

PHONYGAMMUS KERAUDRENI GOULDI (Gray). MANUCODE.

Manucodia gouldi Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1859, p. 158 (Cape York, North Queensland)

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap (R.F.), one female.

The Claudie River district appears to be the southern limit of distribution of the Manucode.

NEOSITTA STRIATA (Gould). STRIATED SITELLA.

Sitella striata Gould, Bds. Austr., Suppl., 1869, p. 54 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Hann River, three males.

This is a Cape York Peninsula species, and records south of about Cardwell are considered doubtful.

Australian forms of the genus *Neositta* are in need of revision. For example, *N. albata* (Ramsay) is based on a female or young example of *N. striata*, and *N. leucocephala* (Gould) is obviously a subspecies of *N. chrysoptera* (Latham). It may be that with sufficient material *N. pileata* (Gould) and *N. leucoptera* (Gould) will prove to be conspecific. At least three, possibly four, species should be admitted. In this, I differ from Mayr (1950) and McGill (1948).

SPHECOTHERES FLAVIVENTRIS Gould. YELLOW FIGBIRD.

Sphecotheres flaviventris Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1849, p. 111, 1850 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Peach River, one male ; Shipton's Flat, one male.

Cape York Peninsula south to the vicinity of Cardwell, in or near rain forest, is the range of the species in Queensland. A subspecies has been named from Arnhem Land, but it requires confirmation.

ORTHONYX SPALDINGI Ramsay. NORTHERN LOG-RUNNER.

Orthonyx spaldingi Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1868, p. 386 (Rockingham Bay, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), three males, two females.

Some years ago (Mack, 1934) I suggested that this species probably ranged from Cardwell north to about Cooktown. The present specimens appear to be the first of the species recorded from north of Cairns.

DRYMODES SUPERCILIARIS SUPERCILIARIS Gould. NORTHERN SCRUB-ROBIN.

Drymodes superciliaris Gould, Jardine's Contr. Orn., 1850, p. 105 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, one male.

It would appear that this form has not been collected south of the Claudie River district, and not noted south of Coen, in Queensland.

D. s. colcloughi, named from the Roper River, Northern Territory, is a good subspecies. The upper surface is much more rufous, and the under surface is white with rufous flanks, not wholly "reddish-brown" as described by Mathews.

POMATOSTOMUS TEMPORALIS TEMPORALIS Vigors & Horsfield. GREY-CROWNED BABBLER.

Pomatorhinus temporalis Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 330 (Shoalwater Bay, Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male (juv.).

There appears to be two forms of this babbler in eastern Australia, *temporalis* in the north and *trivirgatus* to the south of Rockhampton. At least two other subspecies can be readily recognised. *P. t. rubeculus* from the north-west, Northern Territory and central areas, and *P. t. nigrescens* from the mid-west.

GERYGONE OLIVACEA FLAVIGASTA (Diggles). WHITE-THROATED WARBLER.

Acanthiza flavigasta Diggles, Trans. Phil. Soc. Qld., 1876, p. 11 (Normanton, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Coen River, one male.

The Cape York Peninsula form of this species is smaller and much brighter in colouration than *olivacea*.

GERYGONE PALPEBROSA PERSONATA Gould. BLACK-THROATED WARBLER.

Gerygone personata Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1866, p. 217 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek (R.F.), one female, one (?); Archer River (R.F.), one male; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), one male; Peach River (R.F.), one in spirit.

This is the only subspecies of the Black-throated Warbler in Australia. It is present in or near rain forest from Cape York south to near Rockhampton.

G. flavida Ramsay has been maintained by some authors as a separate species because the males are said to lack the black gular stripes present in males of *G. p. personata*. It is possible that the males of *personata* may breed before assuming full plumage.

GERYGONE IGATA MASTERSI (Sharpe). BROWN-WARBLER.

Pseudogerygone mastersi Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., 1879, 4, p. 224 (Gulf of Carpentaria, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek, one (?); Mt. Finnegan, one (?).

Of all Australian genera of small passerine birds, *Gerygone* is most in need of revision. Meise (1931) dealt with the genus as a whole, but my conclusions (unpublished) on Australian forms differ considerably from those reached by Meise.

I consider that five species should be admitted for Australia, against eleven recognised in the Checklist (1926). *G. richmondi* is a synonym of *igata*, and both *cantatrix* and *tenebrosa* are subspecies of *magnirostris*. *G. mouki* is a synonym of *G. i. mastersi*, which with *levigaster* and *fusca* are subspecies of *igata*, and *G. flavida* is a synonym of *personata*, or at most, a subspecies of *palpebrosa*. The names of the five species which I admit are—*G. olivacea*, *G. palpebrosa*, *G. magnirostris*, *G. chloronota* and *G. igata*.

ACANTHIZA PUSILLA KATHERINA De Vis. BROWN THORNBILL.

Acanthiza katherina De Vis, Ann. Qld. Mus., 6, 1905, p. 43 (Bellenden Ker Range, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan, one male.

The presence of this form at Mt. Finnegan extends the known range northwards from the Cairns-Cardwell area. This is the northern limit of the genus in Australia.

SERICORNIS BECCARII MINIMUS Gould. SCRUB-WREN.

Sericornis minimus Gould, Bds. New Guinea, 3, 1875, p. 7 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, one male; Rocky Scrub, two males, two males (?), one in spirit; Coen River, one in spirit.

For the purpose of recording *minimus*, I am following Mayr (1937) and including it as a subspecies of *beccarii*. Only the specimen from Tozer Gap, a male, is close to the characteristic clear-cut plumage pattern of the adult *minimus*. The remainder, from the Rocky Scrub district, are more rufous in colouration, especially on the under surface, and altogether the plumage pattern is indefinite. This lack of a distinct pattern is characteristic of the immature in other forms of the genus. Mayr has described similar specimens as a new subspecies, *S. b. dubius*, but I consider that these examples represent an immature stage of *minimus*.

Sericornis in Australia is another genus that is badly in need of revision. Eight species are listed in the Checklist (1926), but I doubt if any more than three should be admitted. *S. tyrannulus* De Vis is not a *Sericornis*, and I am inclined to the view that *laevigaster*, *minimus*, *maculatus*, and *humilis* are geographical representatives of *frontalis*. However, it is doubtful if all the material in Australian Museums is sufficient to permit a satisfactory revision.

Mathews (1941) described a new subspecies, *Sericornis magnirostris capensis*, from a single specimen in the Queensland Museum collected by Neuhäuser in the Rocky Scrub, Cape York Peninsula. The type is a specimen of *minimus* in the same state of plumage as those recorded above from the Rocky Scrub district.

SERICORNIS LATHAMI CAIRNSI Mathews. YELLOW-THROATED SCRUB-WREN.

Sericornis lathami cairnsi Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1912, p. 354 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), three males, one (?).

These specimens represent the northern and more richly coloured of two subspecies. Mt. Finnegan can be accepted as the northern limit of range of the species; the specimens are the first obtained from north of Cairns.

SERICORNIS MAGNIROSTRIS VIRIDIOR Mathews. LARGE-BILLED SCRUB-WREN.

Sericornis magnirostris viridior Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1912, p. 355 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), two males, one male (?); Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

The specimens recorded extend the range of the species northwards from Cairns to about Cooktown, and as with a number of other species, this would appear to be the northern limit. *S. m. viridior* is distinctly greenish above compared with olive-brown in the only other subspecies to the south of Rockhampton.

MALURUS AMABILIS AMABILIS Gould. LOVELY WREN.

Malurus amabilis Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1850, p. 277, 1852 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Claudie River, one male ; Tozer Gap, one male, one female.

The male and female from Tozer Gap are in adult plumage, while the male from Claudie River is in course of changing from immature plumage to that of the adult male.

MALURUS AMABILIS CLARUS Mack. LOVELY WREN.

Malurus amabilis clarus Mack, Mem. Nat. Mus., 8, 1934, p. 114 (Cardwell, North-east Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, one male.

The markedly lighter blue of the head, ear-coverts and back shown by this single example from the vicinity of Cooktown is characteristic of this subspecies.

MALURUS MELANOCEPHALUS PYRRHONOTUS Mathews. RED-BACKED WREN.

Malurus melanocephalus pyrrhonotus Mathews, Nov. Zool., 1912, 18, p. 362 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male.

The first indications of change to adult plumage is shown by this single specimen.

RHIPIDURA FULIGINOSA PHASIANA De Vis. GREY FANTAIL.

Rhipidura phasiana De Vis, Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld., 1, 1884, p. 156 (Norman River, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, one female ; Brown's Creek, one male ; Peach River, one female (?); Mt. Finnegan, one male, one female ; Shipton's Flat, one in spirit.

A widely distributed species with about six rather ill-defined Australian subspecies. The greater extent of buff colour on the under surface appears to be a feature of *phasiana*.

RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS RUFIFRONS (Latham). RUFOUS FANTAIL.

Muscipapa rufifrons Latham, Ind. Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 50 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Nth Claudie River, one male ; Claudie River, one female ; Tozer Gap, one male ; Upper Nesbit River, two males ; Shipton's Flat, one male.

The Rufous Fantail moves north during the southern winter and returns south in the spring and early summer when it breeds. *R. r. rufifrons* is the subspecies of eastern Australia, and *R. r. dryas* in the north-west and Northern Territory.

RHIPIDURA RUFIVENTRIS ISURA Gould. NORTHERN FANTAIL.

Rhipidura isura Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1840, p. 174, 1841 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one male; Shipton's Flat, two males; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan, one female; Helenvale, one female.

Ranging in coastal areas from the Fitzroy River in the north-west to about Cardwell in eastern Australia, *isura* appears to be the only Australian form.

RHIPIDURA LEUCOPHRYS PICATA Gould. PIED FANTAIL.

Rhipidura picata Gould, Bds. Austr., 1848, Introd., p. xxxix (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Coen River, one (?).

I have never been able to recognise more than two Australian subspecies of this well-known bird; the smaller *picata* in the north, and *leucophrys* elsewhere.

MYIAGRA RUBECULA RUBECULA (Latham). LEADEN FLYCATCHER.

Todus rubeculus Latham, Ind. Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 32 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, one (?); Brown's Creek, one male, one female; Annie River, one male; Peach River, one male, one female; Shipton's Flat, one female; Helenvale, one in spirit.

The Leaden Flycatcher is another of the species which make an incomplete north and south movement annually in eastern Australia. *M. r. concinna* of the northern coastal areas is the only other subspecies.

MACHAERIRHYNCHUS FLAVIVENTER FLAVIVENTER Gould. BOAT-BILLED FLY-CATCHER.

Machaerirhynchus flaviventer Gould, Bds. of Austr. Suppl., 1851, p. 21 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one male (?); Tozer Gap (R.F.), one male; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), two males; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

M. f. flaviventer is one of the many species confined to the rain forest of Cape York Peninsula, south to the vicinity of Cardwell.

ARSES KAUPI Gould. PIED FLYCATCHER.

Arses kaupi Gould, Bds. of Austr. Suppl., 1851, p. 19 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat (R.F.), one female; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

A. kaupi has not previously been recorded outside the Cairns-Cardwell rain forest area. These two specimens from the country about 30 miles south of Cooktown mark the northern limit of the range of the species.

ARSES TELESCOPHTHALMUS LOREALIS De Vis. FRILL-NECKED FLYCATCHER.

Arses lorealis De Vis, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 10, 1895, p. 171 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap (R.F.), one male, one female; Peach River (R.F.), two males.

Owing to the want of sufficient comparative material, in an earlier note (Mack, 1931) I doubtfully retained *lorealis* as a species. Queensland material, however, is clearly to be referred to *telescophthalmus*, and it may be that *lorealis* will not stand. Australian birds are very close to *A. t. aruensis* and they may have to be referred to this subspecies.

In Australia, this flycatcher is confined to the rain forest north of Coen.

PIEZORHYNCHUS ALECTO NITIDUS Gould. SHINING FLYCATCHER.

Piezorhynchus nitidus Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1840, p. 171, 1841 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Peach River (R.F.), one female; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), one male.

There is a tendency at present to refer back to the genus *Monarcha* some Australian species of flycatchers. This is all to the good in some instances, but I prefer to retain *Piezorhynchus* for the present species. The marked difference in plumage between the sexes is sufficient reason for maintaining a convenient subdivision.

MONARCHA MELANOPSIS MELANOPSIS (Vieillot). BLACK-FACED FLYCATCHER.

Muscicapa melanopsis Vieillot, Nouv. Diet., 21, 1818, p. 450 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, one male.

This is a migratory form in eastern Australia, and *melanopsis* is the only subspecies present.

MONARCHA TRIVIRGATA ALBIVENTRIS Gould. SPECTACLED FLYCATCHER.

Monarcha albiventris Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1866, p. 217 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road (R.F.), one imm.; Nth Claudie River (R.F.), one male, one (?); Iron Range (R.F.), one imm. male; Tozer Gap (R.F.), one male, two imm., one in spirit; Peach River (R.F.), one in spirit; Upper Nesbit River (R.F.), one female; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), one (?).

The two Australian subspecies of the Spectacled Flycatcher are readily recognised when in adult plumage. In *albiventris*, the lower under surface is wholly white and there is a greater extent of white in the distal part of the tail; in *gouldi*, the flanks are rufous, and the extent of white on the distal part of the tail is less.

The species occurs in or on the margins of rain forest. *M. t. albiventris* ranges from Cape York to the vicinity of Coen, and *M. t. gouldi* from Cooktown to northern New South Wales.

MONARCHA TRIVIRGATA GOULDI Gray. SPECTACLED FLYCATCHER.

Monarcha gouldi Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1860, p. 352 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat (R.F.), one male, one imm., one (?); Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

Remarks on this subspecies are given under *M. t. albiventris*.

MONARCHA LEUCOTIS Gould. WHITE-EARED FLYCATCHER.

Monarcha leucotis Gould, Jardine's Contr. Orn., 1850, p. 105 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, one (?).

This is an uncommon species. Only a single damaged specimen was obtained at Tozer Gap by Vernon. Its range seems to be from Cape York to south-east Queensland; it does not occur outside this coastal area.

MICROECA FLAVIGASTER TERRAEREGINAE Mathews. LEMON-BREASTED FLYCATCHER.

Microeca flavigaster terraereginae Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1912, p. 303 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one male, two females; Nth. Claudie River, one male.

Cape York Peninsula south to the vicinity of Cardwell is the range of this form. *M. f. flavigaster*, the only other Australian subspecies, occurs in the north-west and Northern Territory.

MICROECA GRISEOCEPS GRISEOCEPS De Vis. YELLOW FLYCATCHER.

PLATE I.

Microeca griseiceps De Vis, Ann. Rep. Brit. New Guinea 1893-4, p. 101, 1894 (Mt. Manaëao, South-east New Guinea).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap (R.F.), one (?).

This is Mathews' *Kempiella kempfi*. The specimen from Tozer Gap is only the second Australian collected example which I have seen. The other was collected by W. McLennan in the Claudie River district and it is now in the H. L. White collection, Melbourne. The species is generally noted at the edge of the rain forest. There is

no difference between the bird from Tozer Gap and a specimen of *griseiceps* from New Guinea, in the Queensland Museum. The latter may be the type of *griseiceps*; De Vis was not particular about labelling his types.

The southern limit of its range appears to be the Claudie River district.

HETEROMYIAS ALBISPECULARIS CINEREIFRONS (Ramsay). GREY-HEADED ROBIN.

Poecilodryas (?) *cinereifrons* Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1875, p. 588 (Cardwell, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), two males.

H. a. cinereifrons is another rain forest species which has not previously been recorded outside the Cairns-Cardwell area. The vicinity of Cooktown would appear to be the northern limit of its range in Australia.

POECILODRYAS SUPERCILIOSA SUPERCILIOSA (Gould). WHITE-BROWED ROBIN.

Peteroica superciliosa Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1846, p. 106, 1847 (nr. Burdekin Lakes, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, two males, one (?).

Although all three specimens were obtained near Cooktown, the subspecies appears to be present throughout the Peninsula, and south to Rockhampton. *P. s. cerviniventris* is the form of the north-west and Northern Territory.

EOPSALTRIA AUSTRALIS MAGNIROSTRIS Gould. YELLOW ROBIN.

Eopsaltria magnirostris Gould, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 4, 1869, p. 109 (Rockingham Bay, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, four males, two in spirit; Mt. Finnegan, one male.

The much brighter or more intense yellow of the undersurface and rump is a feature of this subspecies. Its presence in the vicinity of Cooktown extends the range north from Cairns. *E. a. magnirostris* occurs south to Rockhampton where it intergrades with *E. a. chrysorrhoea* which ranges south to about Sydney. South of Sydney, the latter gives way to *E. a. australis* which is found in the south-east, and west to South Australia.

EOPSALTRIA CAPITO NANA Ramsay. PALE-YELLOW ROBIN.

Eopsaltria nana Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 2, 1878, p. 372 (Cardwell, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat (R.F.), two males, two males (?); Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one juv. male.

These specimens from the Cooktown district extend the range of the species north from Cairns. The other subspecies, *E. c. capito*, is present in suitable habitat from about Rockhampton south to north-eastern New South Wales.

The generic grouping of Australian flycatchers affords difficulties, and I prefer to treat the matter conservatively. *Tregellasia* Mathews has been accepted by some workers for this species, but I do not know of any good reason for its retention.

EOPSALTRIA LEUCOPS ALBIGULARIS (Rothschild & Hartert). WHITE-FACED ROBIN.

Poecilodryas leucops albicularis Rothschild and Hartert, Nov. Zool., 14, 1907, p. 459 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range (R.F.), one male; Nth. Claudie River (R.F.), two (?); Tozer Gap (R.F.), one male, three females; Mount Tozer (R.F.), one in spirit; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), two males, one female.

E. l. albicularis is the only representative of the *Eopsaltria* group in northern Cape York Peninsula. The specimens from the Rocky Scrub district extend the range southward to the end of the northern rain forest.

PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS RUFIVENTRIS (Latham). RUFOUS WHISTLER.

Sylvia rufiventris Latham, Index. Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 54 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one male; Archer River, one female; Coen River, one male; Sipton's Flat, one female; Helenvale, one male.

There is an incomplete north and south movement annually of this species in eastern Australia, and *rufiventris* would seem to be the only subspecies present.

PACHYCEPHALA GRISEICEPS INORNATA (Ramsay). GREY-BREASTED WHISTLER.

Eopsaltria inornata Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1874, p. 604 (Rockingham Bay, North-east Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap (R.F.), one female; Rocky Scrub (R.F.), one male; Sipton's Flat (R.F.), one male.

This is the rain forest representative of the genus in Cape York Peninsula. *P. simplex* from the Northern Territory is not represented in available collections, but some years ago when I examined material, my view was that *simplex* and the present form are distinct species.

COLLURICINCLA HARMONICA BRUNNEA Gould. SHRIKE-THRUSH.

Colluricincla brunnea Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1840, p. 164, 1841 (Port Essington, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one female.

There is no doubt that both *brunnea* and *rufiventris* are subspecies of *harmonica*. About six or seven subspecies are present in Australia and Tasmania, but much material is required for a proper study of the species.

The Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature has submitted an application to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for the suppression of *Turdus phaesus* Forster which is a prior name for the species.

MYIOLESTES MEGARHYNCHA GOULDI Gray. RUFIOUS SHRIKE-THRUSH.

Myiolestes gouldi Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1858, p. 180 (Brown's River, Mid-east Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Nth. Claudie River (R.F.), two males, one male (?), one female; Iron Range (R.F.), one male; Tozer Gap (R.F.), two males; Upper Nesbit River (R.F.), one male; Peach River (R.F.), one male; Shipton's Flat (R.F.), one male, one male (?), one in spirit; Rossville Creek (R.F.), one female; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan (R.F.) one female, one female (?); Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male.

M. m. gouldi was collected in or near rain forest at almost every locality visited by the party. Specimens of this subspecies are considerably smaller than those of the other Australian form, *M. m. rufogaster*, which ranges from the vicinity of Rockhampton south to north-eastern New South Wales.

MYIOLESTES BOWERI (Ramsay). BOWER SHRIKE-THRUSH.

Colluricincla boweri Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 10, 1885, p. 244 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Mt. Finnegan (R.F.), one male, one female.

The collecting of this pair in the Cooktown district extends the range of the species northwards from Cairns.

ARTAMUS LEUCORHYNCHUS LEUCOPYGIALIS Gould. WHITE-BREADED WOOD-SWALLOW.

Artamus leucopygialis Gould, Bds. Austr., 2, 1842, p. 33 (Namoi River, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, three females.

Gould's type locality is probably near the southern limit of the range of this form. *A. l. leucopygialis* is mainly a bird of the north in Australia, and it is probably the only subspecies.

ARTAMUS CINEREUS HYPOLEUCUS Sharpe. BLACK-FACED WOOD-SWALLOW.

Artamus hypoleucus Sharpe, Cat. Bds. Brit. Mus., 13, 1890, p. 17 (? Cape York Pen., North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek, one female.

Gould described this form which has white under tail-coverts under the preoccupied name of *Artamus albiventris*. He remarked that only two specimens were available, one collected "on the Darling Downs, New South Wales" and the other to the north of that locality. They were obtained, presumably by Gilbert, during Leichhardt's expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, and it is apparent that a mistake was made regarding the locality cited. Birds of the species with white under tail-coverts do not occur outside Cape York Peninsula; certainly not as far south as the Darling Downs. It is highly probable that the specimens received by Gould were among the last collected by Gilbert before he was killed in western Cape York Peninsula.

In a small series of specimens from near Normanton at the base of the Gulf of Carpentaria, the anterior half of the under tail-coverts is black and the remainder is white. The same can be said of a series from the Roper River, Northern Territory, except for one specimen in which these coverts are black with a narrow white tip on each feather. In birds from southern Queensland the under tail-coverts are either entirely black, or black with each feather tipped white.

The single specimen from Brown's Creek has the under tail-coverts white with some obscure black flecks anteriorly.

ARTAMUS MINOR Vieillot. LITTLE WOOD-SWALLOW.

Artamus minor Vieillot, Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat., 17, 1817, p. 289 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Between Archer River and Deep Creek, one male.

The species is confined mainly to the northern half of Australia. No difference has been noted in specimens from widely separated localities.

MELITHREPTUS ALBOGULARIS VINITINCTUS De Vis. WHITE-THROATED HONEY-EATER.

Melithreptus vinitinctus De Vis, Proc. Roy. Soc. Qld., 1, 1884, p. 159 (Norman River, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one (?); Iron Range, one male; Wenlock, two males; Peach River, one male; Coen River, one in spirit; Shipton's Flat, two males.

Despite the similarity in size and appearance of *Melithreptus albogularis* and *M. lunatus*, the two are distinct species. An examination of a reasonable series of specimens soon makes this plain, although the only constant external difference is that *lunatus* has the chin black and a slightly greater extent of black on the sides of the face, whereas in *albogularis* these parts are white.

M. lunatus ranges from the vicinity of Herberton, north-east Queensland, south in coastal areas to southern Australia and west to south-western Australia. *M. albogularis* occurs in coastal northern Australia, from the north-west to the east and south to northern New South Wales. This species also is present in south-east New Guinea. The ranges of the two species overlap over a large part of eastern Australia, but there is no interbreeding.

Cape York Peninsula birds, at least north from Cardwell, are lighter, more yellowish on the back, and for these I am using *vinitinctus* De Vis which is the oldest available name.

MYZOMELA SANGUIOLENTA (Latham). SCARLET HONEYEATER.

Certhia sanguinolenta Latham, Index Orn. Suppl., 1801, p. 37 (Sydney, New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, four males, one female.

In coastal areas from Cooktown south towards southern New South Wales and occasionally Victoria is the range of this species. An incomplete annual north-south movement takes place, and probably as a consequence, there has been no subspecies differentiation.

MYZOMELA PECTORALIS Gould. BANDED HONEYEATER.

Myzomela pectoralis Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1840, p. 170, 1841 (North-western Australia).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock River, one male; Hann River, one male, one imm.

I have no material from the north-west and Northern Territory for comparison, but if Mathews' measurements are accepted, then *M. p. incerta* which he provided for Cape York Peninsula birds has no standing. The two adult specimens recorded here have wing measurements of 66 and 70 mm. respectively.

MYZOMELA OBSCURA HARTERTI Mathews. DUSKY HONEYEATER.

Myzomela obscura harterti Mathews, Bull. Brit. Ornith. Club, 27, 1911, p. 100 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male, one (?); Iron Range, one male, one female; Tozer Gap, three males, one female; Brown's Creek, two males; Rocky Scrub, one female, one (?); Shipton's Flat, one male, one in spirit; Helenvale, two in spirit.

M. o. harterti was collected at almost every locality visited in Cape York Peninsula. Sight records of this species in southern Queensland are incorrect; probably the species seen and heard would be *Lichmera indistincta* subspecies.

MELIPHAGA LEWINI Swainson. LEWIN HONEYEATER.

Meliphaga (Ptilotis) lewini Swainson, Class Bds., 2, 1837, p. 326 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Rocky Scrub, one male; Mt. Finnegan, one female.

The similarity of colour and colour pattern in *M. lewini*, *M. analago* and *M. gracilis* is remarkable. Size is almost the only character by which they can be separated, and while *gracilis*, the smallest, is easily determined by this means, I consider that it would not be possible to separate *lewini* and *analago* in the field even by this means.

M. lewini ranges from about the Rocky Scrub district south in coastal areas to New South Wales and eastern Victoria, where it is uncommon. It is the common honeyeater of eastern Queensland, and I have been unable to separate the Peninsula specimens from a good series taken in southern Queensland. It is not possible, therefore, to accept any of Mathews' subspecies.

MELIPHAGA ANALAGO NOTATA (Gould). LESSER LEWIN HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis notata Gould, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., 20, 1867, p. 269 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—North Claudie River, one female; Iron Range, one male; Mount Tozer, one male; Tozer Gap, two males; Shipton's Flat, one male, one (?), two in spirit; Rocky Scrub, one female; Brown's Creek, one (?).

This is the only Australian subspecies of *analago*. It ranges from Cape York south to about Cardwell.

MELIPHAGA GRACILIS GRACILIS (Gould). GRACEFUL HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis gracilis Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1866, p. 217 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male; Iron Range, one male; Tozer Gap, two males (?); Brown's Creek, one male, one female.

With the same range as *M. a. notata*, from Cape York south to Cardwell, this is the only Australian subspecies of *gracilis*.

MELIPHAGA VERSICOLOR VERSICOLOR (Gould). VARIED HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis versicolor Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1842, p. 136, 1843 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male, three females.

Although superficially similar to *M. virescens*, this is nevertheless a distinct species. It is a bird of the mangroves in eastern Cape York Peninsula from Cape York to the vicinity of Cardwell.

MELIPHAGA FRENATA (Ramsay). BRIDLED HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis frenata Ramsay, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1874, p. 603, 1875 (Cardwell, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, three males.

Known at present only from the Cairns-Cardwell area, these three specimens from Shipton's Flat extend the range of the species north to the vicinity of Cooktown.

MELIPHAGA NOVAE-HOLLANDIAE BARRONI (Mathews). YELLOW-FACED HONEY-EATER.

Ptilotis chrysops barroni Mathews, Nov. Zool., 18, 1912, p. 406 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, two males; Mt. Finnegan, one (?).

Both Mathews and A. J. Campbell have described the Cairns-Cardwell birds as a subspecies. Compared with examples of the species from south-east Queensland, the three birds from near Cooktown, which agree with Cairns-Cardwell birds, have longer bills. This is the only difference noted.

Iredale (1937) has noted that *Muscicapa novae-hollandiae* Latham is a prior name for this species.

MELIPHAGA MACLEAYANA (Ramsay). MACLEAY HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis macleayana Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 1, 1875, p. 10 (Cooktown, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, five males, two imm.

These seven specimens from Shipton's Flat are the first which I have examined from other than the Cairns-Cardwell area. The birds do not differ throughout this limited range.

MELIPHAGA FLAVA (Gould). YELLOW HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis flava Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1842, p. 136, 1843 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one male, one female; Shipton's Flat, one male, one (?).

Gould named this species from a single example obtained by the officers of H.M.S. Beagle while employed on the "north coast." Mathews, by inference, has designated Cape York as the type locality, and he has provided a name for a bird or birds with Inkerman, north-east Queensland as the type locality.

The Yellow Honeyeater appears to be confined to Cape York Peninsula, south to the Cairns-Cardwell area. It may extend south to Inkerman or even to Rockhampton, but Mathews' material from Inkerman, on which he based many names, must be considered doubtful. He recorded species from this locality which do not occur in eastern Queensland.

The inclusion of the Northern Territory in the range of *flava* appears to be based on McLennan's record of the species at Pera Head, Cape York Peninsula, while travelling by boat around the Gulf of Carpentaria to the King River, Northern Territory in 1915.

TRICHODERE COCKERELLI (Gould). WHITE-STREAKED HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis cockerelli Gould, Bds. Austr. Suppl., 1869, p. 43 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Brown's Creek, three males; Shipton's Flat, two males.

This honeyeater has not previously been recorded south of the Archer River. The retention of North's genus, *Trichodere*, requires more consideration.

XANTHOTIS CHRYSOTIS FILIGERA (Gould). TAWNY-BREASTED HONEYEATER.

Ptilotis filigera Gould, Bds. Austr. Suppl., 1851, p. 42 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Tozer Gap, two males, one in spirit.

There is only one Australian subspecies of this honeyeater, and apparently the southern limit of its range is the Claudie River district.

ENTOMYZON CYANOTIS HARTERTI Robinson & Laverock. BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER.

Entomyzon cyanotis harterti Robinson and Laverock, Ibis, 1900, p. 635 (Cooktown, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Wenlock, one female; Archer River, one female.

E. c. harterti is considerably smaller than *E. c. cyanotis*. Both *connectens* and *hedleyi* of Mathews are synonyms of this north-east Queensland subspecies.

PHILEMON NOVAEGUINEAE YORKI Mathews. HELMETED FRIAR-BIRD.

Philemon beuceroides yorki Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec., 1, 1912, p. 102 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Shipton's Flat, one male; Helenvale, one male.

This subspecies of *P. novaeguineae* ranges south at least to the Cairns-Cardwell area.

PHILEMON ARGENTICEPS KEMPI Mathews. SILVER-CROWNED FRIAR-BIRD.

Philemon kempi Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec., 1, 1912, p. 101 (Melville Island, Northern Territory).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one female; Brown's Creek, one female; Wenlock one male; Shipton's Flat, one male, one female.

The raised portion of the culmen in these Cape York Peninsula birds is much smaller than in specimens from the Northern Territory. Otherwise, there seems to be little difference.

Although Mathews named a subspecies of *argenticeps* from Melville Island, his *P. b. gordonii* also appears to be based on an example of *argenticeps* from the same island.

CINNYRIS JUGULARIS AUSTRALIS (Gould). YELLOW-BREASTED SUNBIRD.

Nectarinia australis Gould, Jardine's Contr. Orn., 1850, p. 106 (Port Moller, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, two males, two females.

This is the only subspecies of the Sunbird in Australia. It ranges from Cape York south to Rockhampton.

DICAEUM HIRUNDINACEUM (Shaw). MISTLETOE BIRD,

Motacilla hirundinacea Shaw, Nat. Miscel., 4, 1792, p. 114 (New South Wales).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one (?); Shipton's Flat, one male, one female.

Although widely distributed in Australia, no subspecies of the Mistletoe-bird have been recognised.

PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS BARRONI Mathews. BLACK-HEADED PARDALOTE.

Pardalotus melanocephalus barroni Mathews, Austr. Av. Rec., 1, 1912, p. 96 (Cairns, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Archer River, one male; Mount Finnegan, one in spirit.

This northern subspecies is readily recognised; specimens have markedly paler backs and rumps than those from southern Queensland.

The seven species of this genus generally accepted in Australia can be readily reduced to five. *P. xanthopygus* is a subspecies of *P. punctatus*, and *P. ornatus* is a subspecies of *R. striatus*.

ZOSTEROPS LATERALIS RAMSAYI Masters. GREY-BREASTED SILVEREYE.

Zosterops ramsayi Masters, Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 1, 1876, p. 56 (Palm Island, E. Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Iron Range, one male; Upper Parrot Creek, Mt. Finnegan, one male, two females.

In an earlier paper (Mack, 1932) I doubtfully included north-east Queensland silvereyes as *Z. tephroleura*. Although the striking similarity in colour of plumage holds good, on size alone, I now consider that birds from Cape York Peninsula south probably to Rockhampton should be referred to *Z. l. ramsayi*.

The single example from Iron Range extends the range of the species northwards from the Coen district.

STEGANOPELEURA BICHENOVII BICHENOVII (Vigors & Horsfield). BANDED FINCH.

Fringilla bichenovii Vigors and Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 15, 1827, p. 258 (Broad Sound, Mid-east Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Archer River, one female.

S. bichenovii from northern New South Wales and Queensland has white upper tail coverts, and *S. annulosa* from the north-west and Northern Territory has black upper tail coverts. Hill (1913) has stated that both forms occur at Borraloola and do not appear to interbreed. Material is necessary, especially from the base of the Gulf of Carpentaria, to decide whether these two forms are species or subspecies. For the present, they are considered to be subspecies.

AEGINTHA TEMPORALIS MINOR Campbell. RED-BROWED FINCH.

Aegintha minor Campbell, Nests and Eggs Austr. Bds., 1, 1901, p. 492 (Cape York, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Portland Road, one male; Claudie River, one female; Iron Range, one female; Tozer Gap, one male; Shipton's Flat, one female, one (?).

Smaller in size, more yellowish above and lighter beneath, *A. t. minor* is a distinct subspecies of Cape York Peninsula.

POEPHILA CINCTA ATROPYGIALIS Diggles. BLACK-THROATED FINCH.

Poephila atropygialis Diggles, Trans. Phil. Soc. Qld., pt. 1, 1876 (Normanton, North Queensland).

MATERIAL.—Archer River, one male.

The Archer River specimen is to be referred to *atropygialis* which is a subspecies of *P. cincta*. The upper tail-coverts are black, except for a few feathers which are finely tipped white. Specimens are available with varying proportions of black and white in the upper tail-coverts according to locality.

P. c. atropygialis appears to be the subspecies of Cape York Peninsula, possibly ranging south to the vicinity of Cardwell.

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